20 kg. per family per month from the earlier allocation of 35 kg. per family per month, or the offtake during 2004-05, whichever is lower.

(ii) For Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households, the allocation of foodgrains to States to be fixed on the basis of 30 kg. per family per month from the existing 35 kg. per family per month.

(iii) The APL Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains, which were last fixed in July, 2001, to be revised upwards by Rs. 85 per quintal and Rs. 95 per quintal for wheat and rice respectively.

(iv) The BPL CIPs, which were last fixed in July, 2000, to be continued at the same level.

(v) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) CIPs at Rs. 2 per kg. and Rs. 3 per kg. for wheat and rice respectively to be continued without change.

(c) and (d) A few State Governments represented that the implementation of the decisions taken on 06.1.2006 may adversely affect the functioning of the TPDS in their States and lead to large expenditure from the State Government budgets. Representations were also received from several political parties that the decision may adversely affect the food security of poor households. Keeping in view these representations, the Government has decided that the implementation of the decision may be postponed for some time.

Purchase of stationery etc.

*5. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government departments are to purchase stationery and other items from agencies authorized by Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the Railways not adhering to these instructions; and

(c) what steps his Ministry proposes to take to strictly follow Government instructions and to scrap the Railway Board instructions circumventing the Government instructions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accidents at level crossings in A.P.

*6. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents at level crossings in Andhra Pradesh and the loss of lives involved during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken to stop such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) In Andhra Pradesh, the number of level crossing accidents and resultant loss of lives during the period 2003-04 to 2004-05 have been as under:—

Year	Manned level crossing accidents	Fatalities	Unmanned level crossing accidents	Fatalities
2003-2004	—	—	7	12
2004-2005	1	1	3	3
TOTAL	1	1	10	15

(Figures are provisional)

(b) The important steps being taken to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under:

(i) Provision of road signs and speed breakers/rumble strips on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers reduce their speed.

(ii) Whistle boards alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings, from where train drivers whistle in order to warn road users about the approaching train.

(iii) Progressive manning of unmanned level crossings based on laid down criteria. Provision of telephones at manned level crossing gates, progressive interlocking of gates, construction of road over bridges/road under bridges having Train Vehicle Units (TVU) more than one lakh on high density routes.